

Mechanical Memories Magazine

ISSUE 33

MARCH 2009



The only UK magazine dedicated to Vintage Penny Slot Machines

Mechanical Memories Magazine

Mechanical Memories Magazine is a subscriber magazine published monthly, except August. When subscribing, please forward your **Name, Address and Telephone number** to the address below and make cheques payable to: Mechanical Memories Magazine

You may also pay online at: www.pennymachines.co.uk/MMM.htm

Annual Subscription (11 issues)

UK £25 inc. UK postage (£26 by Paypal)

Europe £33 inc. airmail

Rest of the world £40 inc. airmail

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www.pennymachines.co.uk/MMM.htm

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Editorial

Hello again, and here we are with the March issue off MMM, and with any luck you should actually receive it in March. The February magazine was always going to be late, but as it turned out, by the time I had got it to the printers, got it printed and then in the post, it was even later than I had hoped. Anyway, sorry for the delay last time. However, I shall forewarn you all that, unless some kind of divine intervention comes my way, the next issue won't be out until the end of April, as I shall be open at Brighton for the two-week school holidays.

Now, talking of Brighton, it occurred to me recently that there may well be some of the newer subscribers to the magazine, who when I mention Brighton, don't know what the hell I'm talking about. Well, I operate vintage machines in my arcade *Mechanical Memories*, (from where this magazine takes its name). As it's a couple of years since I published the extensive list of venues compiled by Darren Hesketh, I thought I'd give the arcade a small plug, along with some of the other larger venues. See page 14.

Well, that's about it for now. Please keep the articles coming in, as I'm heading for a really busy time over the next few months, so I really do need some help with the magazine.

And finally, before I forget, if your subscription is due for renewal (and many are this month), please get your payment in ASAP. I desperately need the money!

Till next time

All the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

Save Dreamland

Plans for the proposed Dreamland Heritage Park were unveiled recently at the *I dream of Dreamland* event, held in Margate town centre on Sunday 15th March. Among those represented were: The Dreamland Trust; Margate Town Centre Regeneration Co. and the Margate Renewal Partnership. Detailed plans of what has been billed 'a world's first' attraction were unveiled, along with drawings and models of some of the rides.

The Dreamland Trust has already acquired some important rides for the proposed new park, including the Whip from Blackpool and the Water Chute from Southport. The centrepiece will of course be the grade II listed Scenic Railway, which dates from when Dreamland was first opened in 1920, and is the oldest surviving roller coaster in the country. Sadly, following the devastating fire last year, the Scenic Railway now requires considerable restoration work.

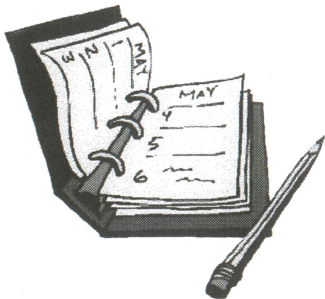
As I have mentioned on various occasions in the past, I have very fond memories of Dreamland from my childhood trips to Margate. The proposed new Dreamland park, which at one time appeared 'pie in the sky', is now looking like it could become a reality in the not too distant future. I shall be keeping a close eye on progress, and publishing regular updates in these pages. One thing is for sure, if Dreamland does ever reopen, I shall be one of the first visitors!

Brighton Jukebox Show

Well, things have been a bit quiet on the slottie scene over the last few months, but the first show of the year is now imminent, and as usual I'm sure many for you in the southern part of the country will be heading down to Brighton for the Jukebox show. If you're planning on visiting the show, don't forget to allow enough time to get down to the seafront to see me at Mechanical Memories. It's really easy to find – at beach level about fifty yards west of the Palace pier. I'll look forward to seeing you.

And Don't Forget

If you know of any event that would be of interest to us all, please let me know so that I can include details in these pages.



Dates for your diary

Chicagoland Show 3rd – 5th April
Illinois, USA

Brighton Jukebox Show 18th & 19th April
Brighton Racecourse

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 28th April
Knightsbridge

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Collectables Sale 12th May
Knowle, Nr Coventry

Great Dorset Steam Fair 2nd – 6th September
Tarrant Hinton, Dorset

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Collectables Sale 29th September
Knowle, Nr Coventry

Jukebox Madness 10th & 11th October
Kempton Park Racecourse

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 10th November
Knightsbridge

MMM Vintage Slot Collectors' Show & Auction 29th November
Coventry (provisional)

Caption Competition

Many thanks for all the captions I've received by post and email. I took them all to the pub with me last night, and got a friend to choose the best (which just happened to be one of my favourites). I am pleased to announce that the winner is Graham Millard, who gets a year's free subscription to the magazine. Well done Graham, and thanks for a great caption, which really made me chuckle!

**Not what you think love,
I'm actually trying to play this double bass,
but without my glasses, I'm useless.....
any money in the hat yet?**



And here are some of the other entries

Oi Harry! ... I'm standing over here.

Too much cranking dislocates your arm.

Being naive Myrtle thought it was the wind raising his jacket.

Stupid place to put a coin return.

7/6d "to ride" what the butler didn't see.

Damned yacht, fire both tubes! Periscope down!

Nothing worse than having your bum bitten by a Jack Russell Trilby.

Quick Gladys, look. 'Er Ladyship has gone down with the butler, and now he's taken her up the back passage.

What they did not see – the wet paint sign that had blown away.

You wouldn't think my father was a vicar would you?

Well I mean it this time, either Horace stops taking Viagra, or we stop coming to the bloody pier.

Cor Blimey! I think I've wet my Y fronts.

What a bugger when you get a thin bent one stuck in the slot.

Bryans follow up their "Magic Machines" with one that levitates your hat.

And now lot 49 ...come on Clapham you can lift it higher than that!

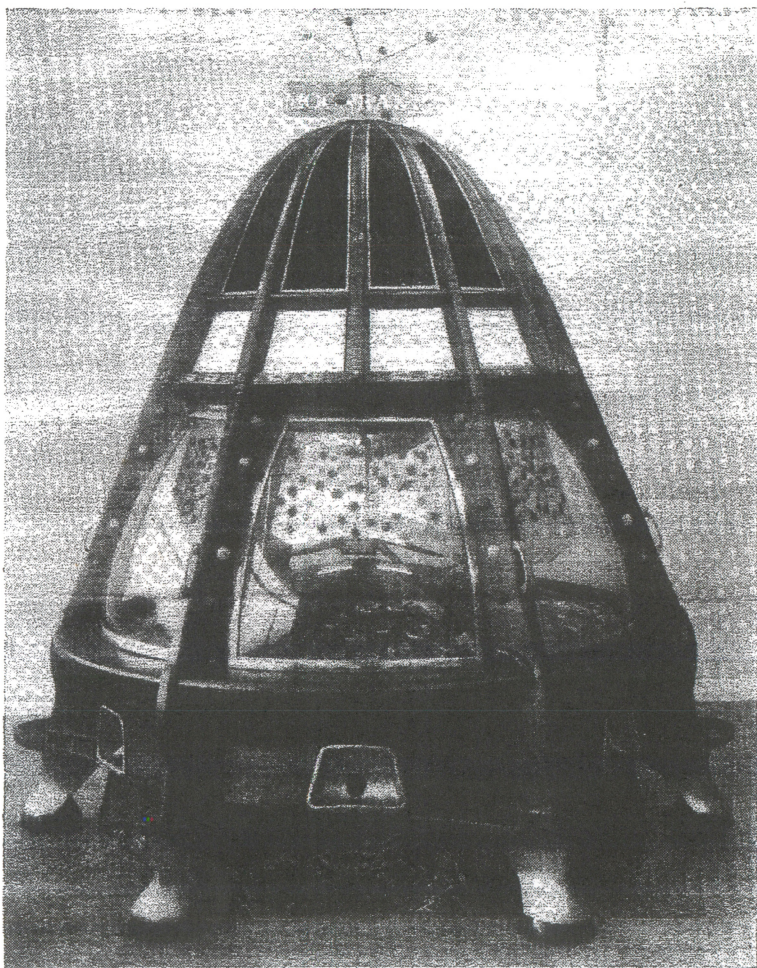
Try the "Man Magnet" only a penny ...Wrong!... she's over there.

Whilst attempting to avoid paying his Council Tax he rode his perspex bicycle smack into a machine!

Issue 32???? well on this machine anyway!

Donald McGee is first to pay £20 to screw a nameplate to the pier deck.

SEE TOMORROWS MACHINE TODAY
"MOONRAKER"
THE GREATEST DRAW MACHINE EVER



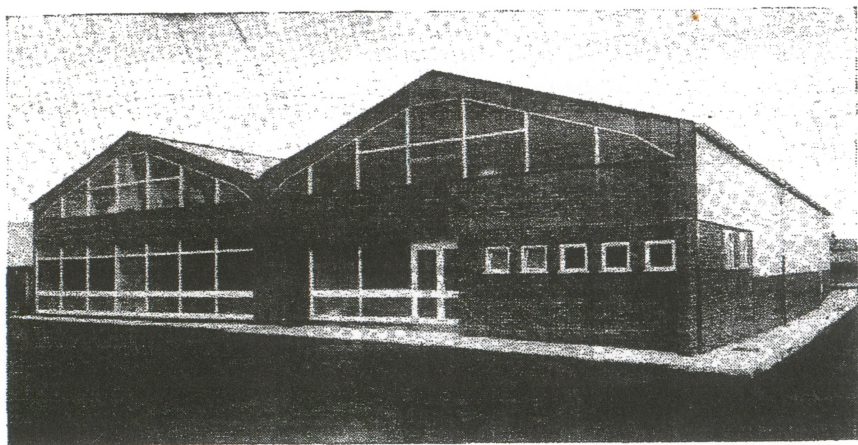
GET INTO THE COIN AGE NOW

Moonraker

You'll remember that last month, following Robert Rowland's article in the January issue, I was able to announce that **Moonraker** was produced by Rollite Products (Bridlington) Ltd., thanks to Michael Jordan who had emailed me a scan from the ATE 1968 yearbook. Well, I've finally got a picture of the beast – and my word, what a beast! Many thanks to John Watts, who sent me a copy of a flyer which he picked up at the ATE, I guess in 1968.

I wonder how many readers remember this machine? I've certainly never seen one. It must have looked very futuristic in it's day (remember, man hadn't yet landed on the moon)! The makers proudly proclaim on the flyer, *'A new presentation of a multiplay machine in sparkling glass fibre. Acclaimed years ahead of its time.'* Written in pencil on the flyer is what I assume was the price of the machine, £765. In 1968, this would have been a considerable amount, I should guess in excess of £10,000 in today's money. I wonder how many were produced? I should think that only the very largest arcades would have been in a position to invest such a huge sum of money in just one machine.

Anyway, thanks again to Michael Jordan and John Watts. Although it is entirely unlikely, if anyone knows of a Moonraker machine that still exists, please let me know.



Developed by Rollite, Sold by Rollite

The Rollite works premises in Filey, as pictured on their flyer.

THE ARCADE

By Richard Brewerton

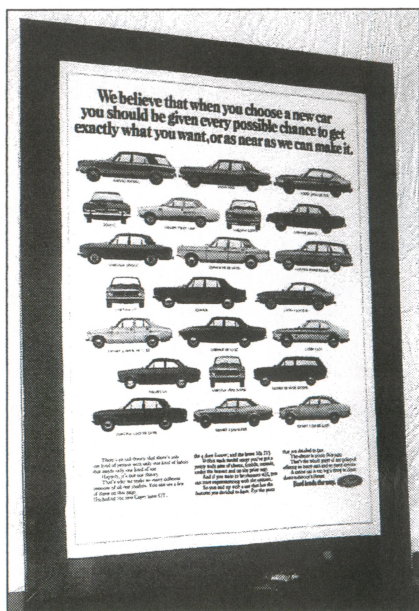
When my son left home and vacated the back bedroom, I promptly commandeered it to become 'The Arcade'. I had previously been located in the shed, so this was a step upmarket. Much to the wife's disgust though, "We should keep it as a spare bedroom, just in case he wants to come back" she said. If that had looked imminent I would have had to change the locks, but for now anyway, I could claim squatter's rights.

Slowly, my little collection of machines grew, and began to fill the available wall space, so under the cover of darkness items of bedroom furniture were removed. Is anyone interested in a one owner single bed, fairly clean but quite high mileage? The old bedside cupboards and three-drawer chest now support my collection of bandits. Well, all two of them at the moment, but hopefully more to come. Why are they so heavy? The drawers are all filling up nicely with all the bits and pieces that you collect, which will come in handy one day. A drawer full of paperwork, books that I've bought, leaflets and manuals I've downloaded, and of course all the back issues of Mechanical Memories Magazine. Allwin spares in another drawer, a box of assorted springs and a box of split pins and washers.



The thing about this hobby is that there is always something that you can find to do. I soon realised that the single light in the bedroom, especially with a low energy bulb in it, did not display my machines very well, so it was off to B&Q for some cheap downlighters. Now you can see them. Then following the great success of the completion of my first bandit, (it still worked) and now being half way through the second, I realised that I needed more sockets to plug them in. So that's the next task, back to B&Q for sockets, cable and trunking.

Another thing that has occupied me for a while is my display of saucy seaside postcards which I collected bit by bit on Ebay. I don't know about which ones are rare and collectable, but I do know which ones I find funny. I have them mounted on large cards pinned to the wall above the machines. It doesn't matter how often I look at them, they always make me laugh. One of my favourites is the lady with her little girl on the beach, moaning to a man to keep his dog away because he keeps sniffing round her little Fanny. It brings tears to my eyes, though the wife thinks I'm a pervert. I'm also interested in old cars, and back in the sixties I had a Zephyr and a Zodiac. I'd lave to have one now, but have to settle for some posters and old advertisements. You need a decent garage/workshop, which I haven't got, so machines are an easier option. She moans if I'm working on a machine in the kitchen, so if it was an old car, she'd go spare. I hadn't really thought about it until now but the cars, machines and postcards all from the sixties are, I guess, a means of briefly reclaiming my youth. My 'Arcade' has become a time machine where I can step back to the sixties for a while.



Saucy seaside postcards and classic 60s cars adorn the walls of Richard's arcade.

Restoration tips

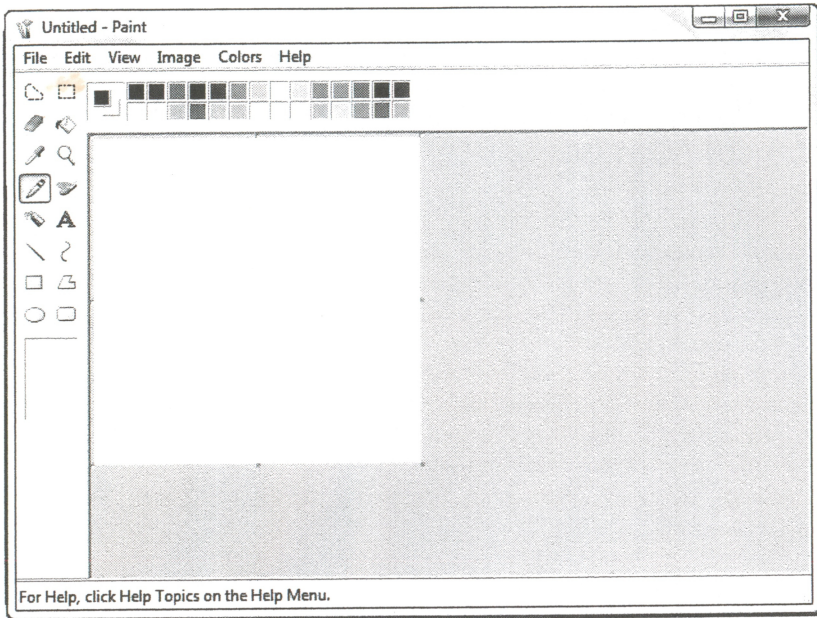


By Stuart Dale

How to make a replacement display glass - Part One

Have you ever had a slot machine with a cracked display glass and you can't find a genuine replacement? Then assuming that the broken glass can be pieced back together to use as a template, this is the method I would use to make a replacement. First carefully remove the broken glass from the machine, and clean the non-painted side taking great care not to disturb the artwork on the back of the glass, and if your scanner is not big enough you will have to ask your local print shop to scan the assembled fragments on to a disk or memory stick for you so you can load the image on to your own computer. Once the image is saved to your computer you can use the MS Paint programme to start to digitally repair the damage ready for printing the replacement. Please don't worry if you have never used the MS Paint programme before, believe me if I can do it anyone can do it! To find the MS Paint programme on your computer click Start / All Programmes / Accessories / Paint. Why not checkout the following links for helpful tutorials to get you started.

<http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/mspaint/paint.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WR7OHC2-Rqs>



This is how MS Paint should look on your computer.

I have written this article in two parts, this will give you time to hone your skills on MS Paint, Please give it a try you will find it is well worth the effort. In next months issue of MMM I will be dealing with the printing and assembly of your replacement glass.

And remember above all Have Fun!

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please take care when working with Glass and Spray Paints, and always wear the correct personal equipment for your own safety...

Places to visit

Mechanical Memories, Brighton

Forgive me for listing this first, but it is my arcade, and I am the publisher and editor of this magazine! Mechanical Memories Museum is Britain's oldest established old penny arcade, and is situated where all vintage slots should be – at the seaside! I have been operating here for the past seven years, having taken over from John Hayward, who together with Clive Baker, set up the very first vintage penny arcade in Brighton, *The National Museum of Penny Slot Machines*, on the Palace pier in 1980.

Mechanical Memories is situated at beach level, approximately fifty yards west of the Palace pier (now renamed Brighton pier). I am open weekends and school holidays (weather permitting) from late morning till about 6.00 pm. If you're coming down to the Brighton Jukebox Show in April, do try to make it down to the seafront. I'm always pleased to see slotties!



Mechanical Memories on Brighton seafront.

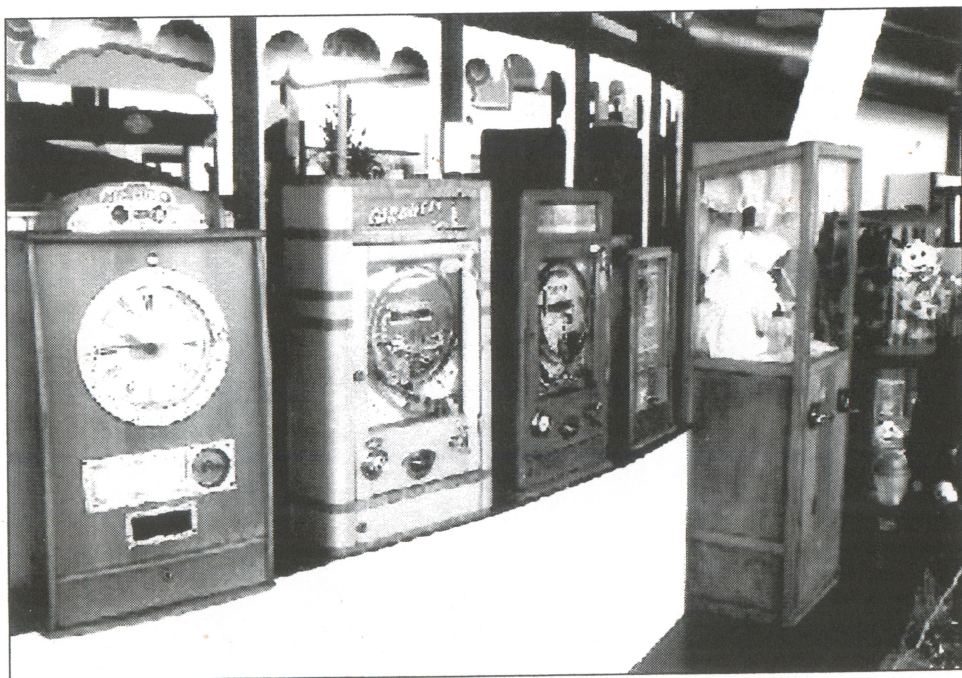
Wookey Hole Caves, near Wells, Somerset

The largest collection of vintage penny machines on public display in this country, and if you're in the West Country, Wookey Hole is an absolute definite 'must visit'. Now owned by Gerry Cottle, there are many new attractions from when I last visited about twelve years ago, and it is a great attraction for all the family. Wookey Hole is worth a visit just for the caves, which are absolutely breathtaking, but with something like a hundred vintage machines to play, can you afford to miss it?

For more information, go to www.wookey.co.uk

Southport Pier

This is Clive Baker's biggest site, situated at the end of the recently restored Southport pier. There are sixty plus vintage machines here, with some great rarities such as the Essex Monkey Racer and Ahrens Marksman Shooter. Unfortunately, I still haven't had the opportunity to visit, but if you're in the Northwest, Southport is well worth a visit.



Wall machines and The Twins at Southport.

Cheshire Candle Workshops, Burwardsley, Near Chester

And whilst in the Northwest, another vintage slot collection which should not be missed is Darren Hesketh's arcade at the Candle Workshops. Again, I haven't yet had a chance to visit Darren's collection, but do hope to one day. There is a varied selection of wall machines and larger arcade pieces here, including a selection of Bolland and Kraft working models. Darren is open weekends and school holidays.

For more information, go to www.museumofamusements.co.uk

Merrivale Model Village, Great Yarmouth

Peter Williamson has a large collection of machines at this popular attraction, which he and Shirley have been running for a number of years now. The model village is worth a visit in its own right, but the machines make it all the more worthwhile! Peter has some great machines here, including a full set of R&W two player race games. The model village is open daily throughout the summer season.

For more information, go to www.greatyarmouthmodelvillage.co.uk



The beautifully atmospheric fairground in the model village.

Rye Tourist Information Centre, East Sussex

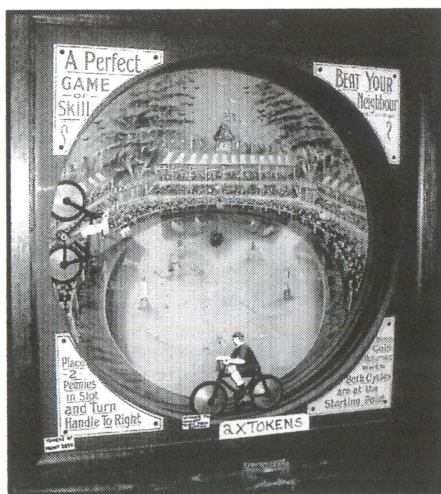
Steve Maxted has what must be the finest collection of working models in the UK, on display on the first floor of the Rye tourist information centre. This was the very first attraction I featured in the magazine, way back in issue 2, and I had hoped to do a follow-up last year, but sadly time did not permit. I will definitely try to get back down to Rye this year.

The models include examples from Bolland, Ahrens, Arnold, Modern Enterprises, Lee, Kraft and Peerless. Among the Bolland machines is what is now believed to be a unique **Davy Jones Locker**. Also included in the collection are a number of wall machines, mutoscope, strength tester etc. If you're in the East Sussex or South Kent area, this is an absolute must visit. The tourist information centre is open daily throughout the summer season.

Battlesbridge Antiques Centre, Essex

Situated in the Bones Lane Antiques building, Joe Pettitt has a small but impressive collection of machines, including working models by Ahrens, Lee and Dennison. If you enjoy browsing antiques and collectables, the Battlesbridge Antiques Centre is a great day out, and Joe's collection of machines is certainly not to be missed.

For more information, go to www.battlesbridge.com



Marathon Cycle Racer at Battlesbridge



The Bellringers at Rye

Front Cover, The English Execution at Battlesbridge

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Wanted

Bollands working models

Les 07905 372227 evenings

Wanted for Bandit

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Bill 01642 710834 (Middlesbrough)

Wanted

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Jerry 07710 285360

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Individual issues £1.50

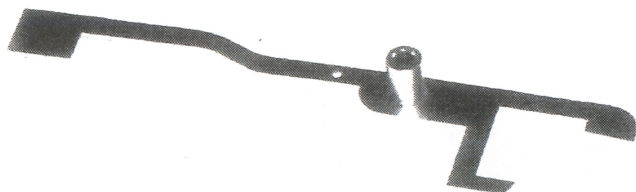
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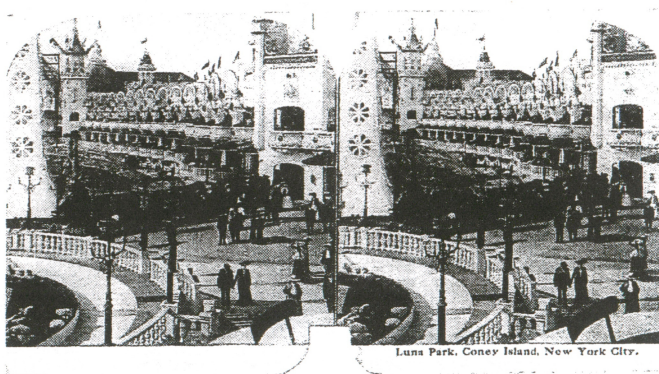
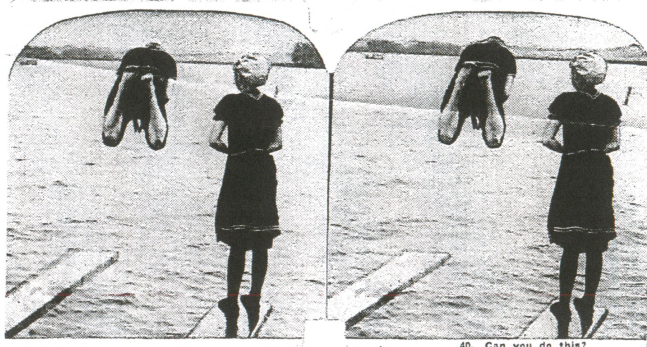
3 for £25 inc. UK p&p

Cheques to:

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For Sale

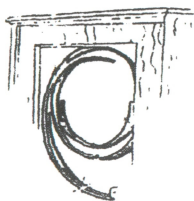
95 stereo cards for a stereoscopic viewer
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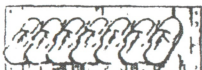
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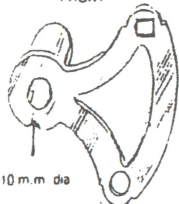


Win Tabs. Red printer on Silver foil sticky backed 12 on a sheet



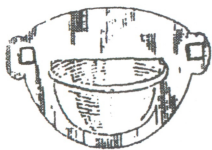
CHROMED 7 ball win gallery. 6 x 1.9/16

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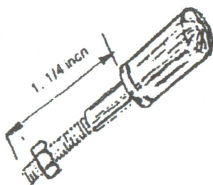


10 m.m dia

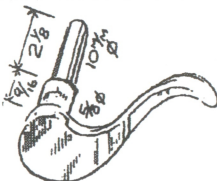
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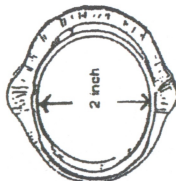


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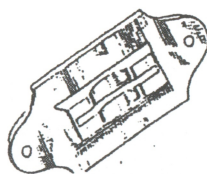


TRIGGER

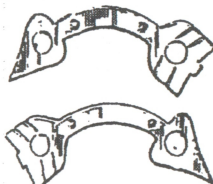
CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



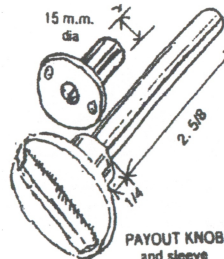
2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on extended nipples 2.1/2 centres.



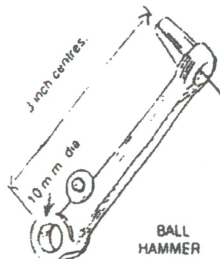
COIN SLOT to suit 2p but can be filed bigger



CHROMED ARROWS Reversible.



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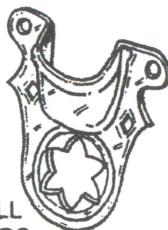


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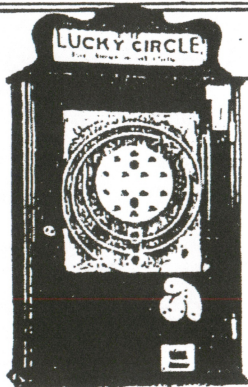
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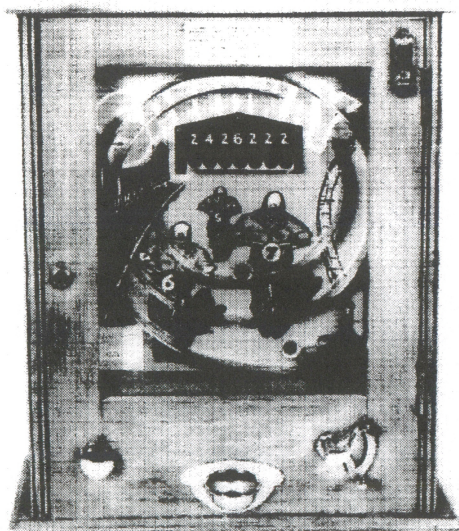
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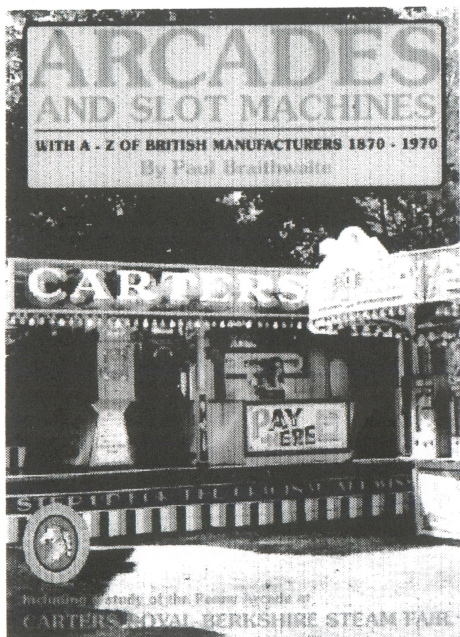
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